

LAWS 3903 B: Graffiti & Legislating Aesthetics (Summer 2013)

Office Hours: LA B442
Tuesdays 8:30 -11:30

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Course Web Page:
www.pedagogmob.com



Instructor (contract):
Deborah Landry, PhD

Day & Time:
Tues & Thurs 11:35 - 2:25

Classroom:
Please check Carleton Central.

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is facilitate a critically examination of the socio-political context in which graffiti and its management becomes a concern for contemporary municipalities in the UK, Australia, USA and Canada. We will explore the phenomena of hip-hop graffiti as a complex cultural production, a manifestation of material conditions and social order, which poses challenges to even the most creative governing bodies. We will consider the epistemological foundations of formal and informal management strategies directed at producing the aesthetics of security (and risks). We will also consider formal definitions of graffiti (and its management) in terms of urban 'blight' and dysfunction in cultural manifestations of 'worthy' citizens, in what Baudrillard calls 'reconnaissance battles' over the moral aesthetics of the city.

The praxis based approach to learning used in this class will require students to make several visits to graffiti walls and sites of contestation in the City of Ottawa's *War on Graffiti*. Students will also be asked to do projects that require independent field observations of the city, as well as working collaboratively with others to interrogate current legislative practices with the goal of developing reflexive, ethical, and critically thought out responses to the contemporary trend to legislate the aesthetics of urban public spaces.

Required Readings

Most readings can be located online through Carleton Library e-journals and web resources, with the exception of the Rhan reading **on reserve** at the library.

Praxis Workshop Supplies: 40\$ (Due TBA)

Course Evaluation:

Critical Photo Essay [Can be in groups]: 15% (Due: July 21)
Praxis & Presumptions Critical Reflection Paper: 25% (Due: August 4)
Legislation Evaluation Presentation [Groups of 3]: 25% (August 6, 8 & 13th)
Take Home Exam: 35% (due August 22)

To receive course credit, students must complete all assignments in accordance with the minimal standards outlined in assignment guidelines.

- ❖ Students will note that all papers, *with the exception of the final take home exam*, will be submitted (and returned) electronically. As such they must be e-mailed to me from your Carleton University e-mail.

<p>Module 1: Theoretical Framework about Governing Public Space</p> <p>This section focuses on key theoretical foundations from which we draw upon to trouble some of the less critical assumptions about graffiti that tend to inform municipal policies that attempt to manage graffiti.</p> <p>Students will want to think beyond the question “what is graffiti” by thinking instead about the historical socio-political context in which graffiti becomes understood as a social problem (or not).</p>	<p>Critical Visual Essays Due Sunday July 21st @ 23:30h</p> <p>Harvey (2008) The Right to the City – Urban Uprising. New Left Review. http://urban-uprising.org/sites/default/files/files/righttothecity.pdf</p> <p>Halsey, M & Young, A. (2012). The Meanings of Graffiti and Municipal Administration. Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology (45)3.</p> <p>Bauman, Z (2002). Reconnaissance Wars of the Planetary Frontier. Culture & Society. 14(4):81-90. http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/pais/people/aldrich/vigilant/bauman.zygmunt.-.reconnaissance.wars.pdf</p> <p>Iveson, K. (2010). 'The Wars on Graffiti and New Military Urbanism', City 14 (1 & 2): 115 -134.</p> <p>Hunt & Harmer (1996) Official Graffiti of the Everyday. Law & Society Review, Volume 30, Number 3.</p> <p>Ismail (2008) Pudu Jail’s Graffiti: Aesthetics Beyond the Walls of the Prison Cells. International Symposium on Electronic Art. http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/ismailexpaper.pdf</p>
<p>Module 2: Praxis & Policy</p> <p>This section of the material will explore the ways in which graffiti gets taken up both as a solution & a cause of urban problems. Students will be asked to assess inherent assumptions upon which such responses rest.</p> <p>Students will also review the original key text that is typically reproduced in many municipal strategies.</p> <p>Local urban artists Dems & Dolls will come in to run a workshop about the techniques of graffiti and their current careers in the art world.</p> <p>Students will learn some of the techniques involved in ‘writing’ graffiti, which will be reflected upon by students in their paper on the current literature on graffiti management.</p>	<p>Praxis & Presumptions: Critical Reflection Paper: 25% (Due Sunday August 4th @ 23:30h)</p> <p>Mubi Brighenti, A. (2012) At the Wall: Graffiti Writers, Urban Territoriality, and the Public Domain. Space & Culture (15) 4.</p> <p>Kelling, G. & Wilson, J.Q. (1982) Broken Windows: The police and neighborhood safety. The Atlantic Magazine. http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1982/03/broken-windows/304465/</p> <p>Sampson, R & Raudenbush, S.W. (2004). Seeing Disorder: Negotiating Stigmas and the Social construction of “Broken Windows”. Social Psychology Quarterly. 67 (4): 319-342.</p> <p>Young, A (2010) Negotiated consent or zero tolerance? Responding to graffiti and street art in Melbourne. City: analysis of urban trends, culture, theory, policy, action. Volume 14, Issue 1-2</p> <p>Rahn (2010). The Pedagogy of Hip-Hop Graffiti. In Painting without Permission. Begin & Garvey: Connecticut. [On Reserve]</p> <p>MacGillivray, L., & Curwen, M. S. (2007). Tagging as a Social Literacy Practice. Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy 50 (5): 354-69.</p> <p>Valle, I & Weiss, E. (2009). 'Participation in the Figured World of Graffiti', Teaching and Teacher Education 26 (1): 128 -135.</p>

<p>Module 3: Where do we go from here?</p> <p>We will learn from each other this week as we discuss what other cities across the world do in attempting to manage graffiti.</p> <p>The take home exam in this course requires you to demonstrate your critical engagement and assessment of all the course materials.</p> <p>This will be distributed on the last class, with full explanation.</p>	<p>Student Presentations: 25% (During the first half of classes on August 6, 8 and 13th - Attendance Mandatory)</p> <p>Staples, B (4/2012). The Human Cost of ‘Zero Tolerance’. New York Times [opinion]. http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/29/opinion/sunday/the-cost-of-zero-tolerance.html?_r=3&&pagewanted=print</p> <p>McAuliffe & Iveson (2010) Art and Crime (and Other Things Besides ...): Conceptualizing Graffiti in the City. Geography Compass, 5/3 128–143</p> <p>Final Take Home Exam Worth 35% (due on the last day of the official examination period)</p>
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Course Policies:

Late Submissions: All assignments are expected on assigned due dates. Any assignments, which are more than 7 days late will NOT be accepted without a medical excuse. Assignments received any time up until the ‘7 days late’ due date will automatically lose 10%. Students should be familiar with the university policy on deferrals
<http://www1.carleton.ca/registrar/special-requests/deferral/>

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory (students may exceptionally miss 1 class without penalty). Students risk losing between 2 -5% on their final grade for every class they miss without a valid medical note.

Academic Fraud/Plagiarism: Academic fraud is an act committed by a student to distort the marking of assignments, tests, examinations and other forms of academic evaluation. Such an act is an extremely serious matter and consequently will be dealt with accordingly.

Students should note that all work submitted must be their own words and context, and not written (in part or in whole) by another person (or in conjunction with a classmate) or taken from the internet. All material quoted or paraphrased from any source and in any form (assignments or tests/exams) must be properly cited, including bibliographical references.

For more information on that which constitutes academic fraud as well as strategies for avoiding this act, students are encouraged to consult the Carleton University resources:

Tips on Avoidance

<http://www.library.carleton.ca/help/avoid-plagiarism>

The Official University Policy

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>

Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>